

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



**January 17 – 23, 2016**

### Sunday, January 17

**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Special NPS Centennial Program – “Solar Viewing”** Phil Keaton, former superintendent for the McDonald Observatory, will set up a hydrogen-alpha telescope to offer park visitors the opportunity to view the sun. This special program is sponsored by the Big Bend Conservancy. Meet at the Chisos Mountain Lodge Shade Ramada, adjacent to the Chisos Basin parking lot.

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Hot Springs, a History”** From prehistoric camp to healing resort, the hot springs on the Rio Grande have been a focal point for communities throughout history. The art and homes they left behind reveal their stories. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn more about the history of the Hot Springs. Meet at the Hot Springs store (50 yards from the parking lot). Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 1 hour.

### Monday, January 18

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Our Most Precious Resource”** Water brings life to the desert. Join Ranger C. Rinas to learn more about this precious but limited resource. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, across from Campsite 18. Water and sun protection recommended. 3/4 mile walk. 1 hour.

### Tuesday, January 19

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Band on the Run”** Who were the nomadic Plains Indians that were amazing equestrians, savvy traders, but also marauders and thieves? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the Comanche and their way of life, with story telling that will engage the senses. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

### Wednesday, January 20

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Soap from Yucca & More!”** If you have the knowledge, just about everything you need can be obtained from plants. Join Ranger C. Rinas on this easy 0.5 mile walk to learn about some of the traditional uses of plants. Bring water and sun protection. Meet at the Dugout Wells picnic area. 1/3 mile walk. 45 minutes.

### Thursday, January 21

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend”** Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend’s ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

### Friday, January 22

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill”** The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

**7:30 PM Special NPS Centennial Program – “Moonwalk at Grapevine Hills”** Exploring Big Bend by moonlight is a special experience. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a walk to Balanced Rock. Meet at the trailhead along Grapevine Hills Road at 7:30 pm. A high-clearance vehicle is recommended; transportation, provided by Forever Resorts, is available for 10 people – sign up at Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes for a moderate 2-mile round trip over uneven terrain. 1 ½ hours.

### Saturday, January 23

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk”** Many of us have enjoyed hiking on trails, but have you ever thought about how or why these trails were built? Join Ranger J. Woerner for a closer look at the work and thought behind trail building. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 45 minutes.

### Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.